

# Report to Congress



**STENNIS**  
Center for Public Service



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John C. Stennis believed that leadership matters. His leadership spanned the length of the Cold War, and he helped America prevail by making our country stronger and better. At a time when new challenges abound, our communities, our states and our nation need leaders in public service who are prepared to tackle the public issues of our day.

The purpose of the programs of the Stennis Center for Public Service is to prepare leaders who want to make a difference through public service. Created by Congress in 1988, the Stennis Center is an independent legislative branch agency whose mission is to promote and strengthen public service in America and to carry on the commitment to public service exemplified by the life and work of John C. Stennis.

The Stennis Center carries out this mission through conferences, seminars, and leadership programs designed to attract young people to public service careers and to improve the ability of leaders already engaged in public service. As a congressionally chartered agency, the work of the Stennis Center is focused on improving the understanding of Congress as an institution, helping those who work in the legislative branch with opportunities for personal development, and building relationships and understanding between civilian and military leaders.

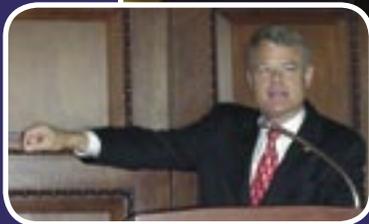
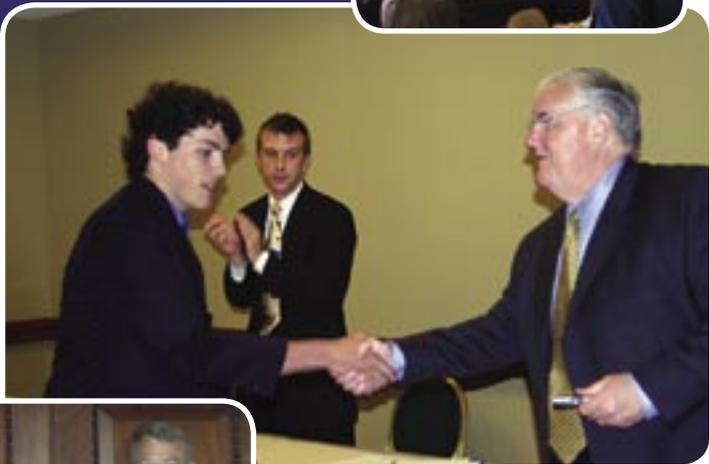
The Stennis Center is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Democratic and Republican leaders in the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives. Programs of the Stennis Center are funded through a trust fund established when the Stennis Center was created and through fees, contributions and through other program-specific sources.

The following pages contain highlights of the major activities of the Stennis Center. Each of these programs strengthens the quality and character of public service in America in a unique way.



Senator John C. Stennis  
1901-1995

# Attracting Young People to Public Service Leadership



*Top left:* Congress to Campus visit. *Middle left:* National Student Congress participant accepts award from Rex Buffington. *Bottom left:* U.S. Representative Mike McIntyre (D-NC) addresses Stennis interns. *Top right:* National Student Congress Representatives. *Bottom right:* National Student Congress Senators.

## Stennis National Student Congress

For 16 consecutive summers, the Stennis Center has sponsored the John C. Stennis Student Congress competition as part of the National Forensic League's National Speech Tournament. Over 420 of the nation's best high school debaters participate in this mock Congress and compete for the honor of being crowned national champion.

The Stennis Center supports legislative debate because it develops leadership skills in young people and introduces them to the value of public service. Organizing information and analyzing competing points of view are essential tasks performed by officials at all levels of government, such as governors, legislators, mayors and agency directors. By mastering these skills at a young age, participants in the Stennis National Student Congress are better prepared for careers in public service.

This competition has carried the work of the Stennis Center nationwide. Sites for the Stennis Student Congress have included Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas

and Utah. The 2007 competition was in Wichita, Kansas and the 2008 tournament will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The year 2003 marked a milestone in the competition with the retirement of Iowa debate coach Harold Keller, affectionately known as "Mr. Congress." As the National Clerk of the Congress since 1978, Keller played a major role in planning and implementing Student Congress for 25 years.

In 2006, the Stennis Center created the Harold Keller Public Service Leadership Award to honor Keller's leadership in the growth and success of Student Congress. Beginning in 2007, the Keller Award will be presented annually to a former Student Congress competitor who has made significant contributions to his or her community, state, or nation through public service leadership.



### 2006 John C. Stennis National Forensic League Student Congress – Dallas, Texas

#### *Senators*

1. Eva Lam, WI
2. Collin Outerbridge, FL
3. Adam Lathram, CA
4. Gautam Thapar, CA
5. Brian Rubaie, KS
6. Varun Sivaram, CA
7. Nick Templin, KS
8. Tabisa Walwema, FL
9. Jared Sonnenklar, FL

#### *Representatives*

1. Cameron Secord, GA
2. Jack Robling, NY
3. Carl Werner, MO
4. Agnes Nam, MA
5. Sundeep Iyer, NJ
6. Varun Hippalgaonkar, FL
7. Cameron D. Kirk-Giannini, CA
8. Mike Educate, IL
9. Jessica Cooper, CA

### John C. Stennis Novice Speech and Debate Tournament

After a one year hiatus, the Stennis Center resumed the John C. Stennis Novice Speech and Debate Tournament at Mississippi State University on September 22-23, 2006. Organized by Randy Patterson, debate coach at St. Andrews Episcopal School (Ridgeland, Miss.), and Billy Tate, debate coach at Montgomery Bell Academy (Nashville, Tenn.), this event provides many high school students with their first debate experience. The tournament is held in September at the beginning of the school year and attracts approximately 200 students from Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.

# Stennis Congressional Intern Program

Now in its fourth year, the Stennis Congressional Intern Program is a bipartisan, bicameral leadership development program for summer interns of the United States Congress. The program is supported by the Senior Stennis Fellows, similar to the Emerging Leaders Program, as part of their ongoing effort to promote congressional public service. The purpose is to enhance the experience of summer interns on Capitol Hill through networking with other interns and interaction with senior congressional staff.

Thirty interns (19 from the House and 11 from the Senate) were selected to participate in the most recent summer program. The college students were chosen on the basis of a strong academic record and a demonstrated commitment to public service through involvement in campus activities.

The program featured a series of interactive sessions in June and July exploring various aspects of the workings of the Congress. Topics included:

- **How Laws Are Really Made** – a detailed workshop on the legislative process;
- **Outside Influences: The Role of Lobbyists and the Media** – a discussion of the ways in which lobbyists, the media, money and constituents affect the legislative process;
- **Congress, the White House and the Courts** – an overview of how Congress interacts with the White House, the Cabinet and federal agencies, and the courts;
- **Roundtable Discussions with Senior Stennis Fellows** – small group meetings with longtime staff members on Capitol Hill.

U.S. Representative Ray LaHood (R-IL) took the interns to the floor of the House of Representatives, and Assistant Secretary for the Minority Lula Davis hosted a visit to the Senate floor.

The program concluded with a luncheon at the Library of Congress. U.S. Representative Mike McIntyre (D-NC), who himself was once a congressional intern, talked about his career path which led to his election to Congress in 1996.



## David Benson-Staebler

*Office of Representative Jim Oberstar*

## Zeke Berzoff-Cohen

*Office of Representative John Olver*

## Elizabeth Brady

*Office of Senator Mike Enzi*

## Tenisha Callender

*Office of Representative James McGovern*

## Paul Cenoz

*Office of Representative John Campbell*

## Jessica Cohen

*Office of Senator Hillary Clinton*

## Rachel Dillard

*Office of Senator Jim DeMint*

## Stephanie Dreyer

*Office of Senator Charles Schumer*

## Brittany Erickson

*Office of Senator Kent Conrad*

## David Evans

*Office of Senator Mel Martinez*

## Jason Feld

*Office of Representative Lynn Woolsey*

## Whitney Fogg

*Office of Representative Connie Mack*

## Clark Fonda

*Office of Representative John Campbell*

## Sarah Hackett

*Office of Senator Patrick Leahy*

## JC Hendrickson

*Office of Representative Maurice Hinchey*

## Andrew Hill

*Office of Representative Charlie Norwood*

## Abby Kirkbride

*Office of Senator Mike Enzi*

## Anne Kouri

*Office of Representative Ray LaHood*

## Mark Ladley

*Office of Representative Allyson Schwartz*

## Cassandra Long

*Office of Senator Bill Nelson*

## Jonathan Lowrey

*Office of Representative Sam Graves*

## Meghan McCarthy

*Office of Representative Rush Holt*

## Chris Nielsen

*Office of Senator Tim Johnson*

## Edward Parkinson

*House Committee on Homeland Security*

## Sara Rafferty

*Office of Representative Phil English*

## Joshua Root

*Office of Representative John Olver*

## Eric Sandberg-Zakian

*Office of Representative Rush Holt*

## Matt Seager

*Office of Senator Patrick Leahy*

## Eli Sevcik-Timberg

*Office of Representative Mel Watt*

## Elizabeth Tran

*Office of Representative Neil Abercrombie*

# Intern Participants 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, Second Session

# Congress to Campus



The Congress to Campus program is an effort by the Stennis Center to help young people believe in the nobility of public service. The program sends bipartisan pairs of former members of Congress – one Democrat and one Republican – to visit college campuses around the country. During a two day visit, the former members conduct classes, hold community forums, meet informally with students and faculty and do interviews with local media. Their aim is to encourage students to consider careers in public service and to provide firsthand knowledge about the work of Congress.

The Stennis Center works alongside the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress (USAFMC) to plan and implement the program. The Stennis Center and USAFMC identify schools, recruit the former Members and pay their travel costs. Participating campuses plan the schedules and pay food and lodging costs of the visits.

In 2006, the Congress to Campus program was held on 22 campuses, from Dartmouth University in New Hampshire to California State University at Long Beach. Since 1996, the Stennis Center has helped plan more than 150 visits to campuses throughout the United States.

While on campus, the former Members focus on the value of civic participation. They discuss their own career path in public service and encourage students to seek ways to become involved in making a difference in their community. In this era of cynicism and “gotcha” politics, they model how to disagree amicably on points of policy. They also talk about job opportunities in government, including internships.

Donna Hoffman, a professor who hosted the program at the University of Northern Iowa, said, “It’s a good experience for our students to see former Members of Congress up close and ask particular questions about their time in office.”

Oval Hansen, a Republican Congressman from Idaho in the 1970s, reported, “I am still on a high following my visit to Northwest Missouri State University. The welcome from the students who were informed and interested warmed the heart of this old politician and renewed my confidence in the future of our country.”

**“I appreciate the opportunity the Congress to Campus program provides to talk to young people about the value of public service. I always enjoy visiting campuses and get as much out of these visits as those we are seeking to help.”**

**Ken Hechler**  
(D-WV, 1959-1977)

# Congress to Campus Participants

2006  
2007

**Hartwick College (NY)**  
*April 23-25, 2007*  
David Minge (D-MN)  
Mike Parker (R-MS)

**Dartmouth College**  
*April 16-18, 2007*  
Bill Goodling (R-PA)  
Barbara Kennelly (D-CT)

**Washburn University**  
*April 15-17, 2007*  
Orval Hansen (R-ID)  
Jan Meyers (R-KS)

**Saginaw Valley State University**  
*April 10-12, 2007*  
Louis Frey, Jr. (R-FL)  
Jim Lloyd (D-CA)

**Western Kentucky University**  
*April 8-10, 2007*  
Ken Hechler (D-WV)  
Nick Smith (R-MI)

**University of Georgia**  
*April 2-4, 2007*  
Dan Miller (R-FL)  
Butler Derrick (D-SC)

**University of Nebraska-Omaha**  
*March 5-7, 2007*  
Andy Jacobs (D-IN)  
Manuel Lujan (R-NM)

**SUNY-Brockport**  
*March 4-6, 2007*  
Dan Miller (R-FL)  
Jerry Patterson (D-CA)

**U.S. Naval Academy**  
*February 25-27, 2006*  
Mickey Edwards (R-OK)  
David Minge (D-MN)

**University of Akron**  
*February 6-8, 2007*  
Sam Coppersmith (D-AZ)  
Mike Parker (R-MS)

**Carleton University (Ottawa)**  
*January 21-23, 2007*  
Bev Byron (D-MD)  
Peter Torkildsen (R-MA)

**University of British Columbia**  
*November 19-21, 2006*  
David Skaggs (D-CO)  
Denny Smith (R-OR)

**University of Toronto**  
*November 14-16, 2006*  
Owen Pickett (D-VA)  
Nick Smith (R-MI)

**De Montfort University (UK)**  
*November 12-17, 2006*  
Tom Downey (D-NY)  
Lou Frey (R-FL)

**Western Carolina University**  
*November 12-14, 2006*  
Jay W. Dickey Jr. (R-AR)  
Liz Patterson (D-SC)

**Northwest Missouri State University**  
*October 29-31, 2006*  
Orval Hansen (R-ID)  
Bill Roy (D-KS)

**Edinboro University (PA)**  
*October 22-24, 2006*  
Ken Hechler (D-WV)  
Steven Kuyukendall (R-CA)

**St. Peter's College (NJ)**  
*October 17-19, 2006*  
Bill Goodling (R-PA)  
George Hochbrueckner (D-NY)

**California State University-Long Beach**  
*September 25-27, 2006*  
Jim Coyne (R-PA)  
David R. Minge (D-MN)

**Murray State University**  
*September 17-19, 2006*  
Arlen I. Erdahl (R-MN)  
Andy Jacobs (D-IN)

**Widener University (PA)**  
*September 17-19, 2006*  
William Clinger (R-PA)  
Jerry Patterson (D-CA)

**University of Northern Iowa**  
*September 17-19, 2006*  
Sam Coppersmith (D-AZ)  
Manuel Lujan, Jr. (R-NM)

**Georgia College & State University**  
*September 12-14, 2006*  
Jim Lloyd (D-CA)  
Daniel Miller (R-FL)

# Truman Scholars Day on Capitol Hill

The Stennis Center presented the fifth annual edition of Truman Scholars Day on Capitol Hill on July 20, 2007. This program continues a partnership with the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation that dates back to 1991. It brings together Truman Scholars who are recent college graduates for an inside view of how Congress works, highlighted by personal visits with senior level congressional staff members who are part of the Stennis Fellows program.

Each summer approximately 60 Truman Scholars – students from every state who possess exceptional leadership potential and are committed to careers in government, the nonprofit or advocacy sectors, education or elsewhere in the public service – come to Washington for internships in federal agencies, nonprofits and professional organizations. Despite their close proximity to Capitol Hill, many never have an opportunity to visit the U.S. Capitol or a congressional office during their Washington internship. This program introduces Truman Scholars to the importance of the legislative branch.

Judy Schneider, the leading specialist on the Congress at the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress, conducts a workshop on legislative process each year for the Truman Scholars. Schneider, who is also a Senior Stennis Fellow, told the Truman Scholars that Congress is driven by three P's: policy, procedure and politics. She also informed them that despite what they read in a textbook, "The real purpose of Congress is not to pass laws, but to stop bad laws from getting passed."

Don Ritchie, associate historian in the Senate Historical Office, took the Truman Scholars into the Old Senate Chamber inside the U.S. Capitol.



He explained that George Washington told Thomas Jefferson that the framers had created the Senate to "cool" House legislation just as a saucer was used to cool hot tea.

The Truman Scholars then had the unique opportunity to visit the floors of both the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives.

**"Visiting the chambers was my favorite part of the day. Each was different, but both inspired a sense of awe and majesty."**

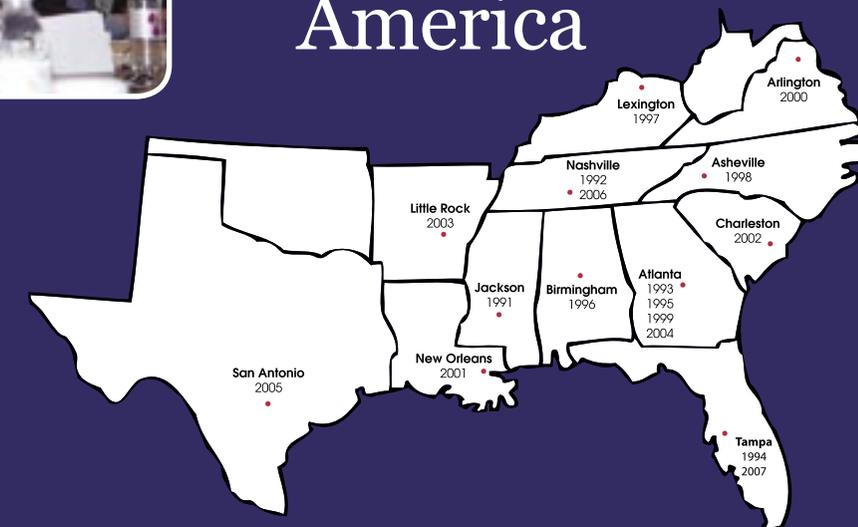
**a Truman Scholar**

The most valuable part of the day was the opportunity to interact at lunch and afterwards in offices with high ranking congressional staff who have participated in the Stennis Center's Stennis Fellows program. Each Stennis Fellow spent the afternoon with two Truman Scholars to provide an intimate exposure to those who make Congress work as an institution of American democracy.

April Joy Damian, a Truman Scholar from California, wrote about her experience, "I am reminded of why, although I am critical of how our society is currently operating, I still wave my American flag and commit myself to a life in public service. Thank you for helping me renew my faith, hope and passion in our government and our country."



# Strengthening Public Service Leadership in America



*Top left:* U.S. Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz of Florida. *Top right:* ABC News journalist Cokie Roberts meets with Stennis Fellows. *Center:* Jordan Press, Senior Legislative Assistant to U.S. Representative Chris Shays, with her mentor, Terri Ann Lowenthal, a Stennis Fellow from the 103rd Congress. *Bottom left:* Admiral Mike Mullen with U.S. Senator Bob Casey of Pennsylvania. *Map:* Southern Women in Public Service conference host sites.

# Stennis Congressional Staff Fellows Program

The Stennis Congressional Staff Fellows Program was established by the Stennis Center in 1993 during the 103rd Congress. Popularly known by the shorthand title, Stennis Fellows Program, this bipartisan, bicameral experience for senior-level staff of the United States Congress has become the premiere leadership development program for staff leaders on Capitol Hill.

At the beginning of each new Congress, approximately 30 Congressional staff members are selected through a highly competitive process to become Stennis Fellows. Each group includes staff from the House and Senate, from personal, committee and leadership offices and from the different political parties.

“The Stennis Fellows recognize that public service leadership in America provides an almost unparalleled opportunity to do good on a broad scale. But they also realize the tremendous damage to the public good that comes from failure to uphold the values and principles underpinning American democracy. Their recognition that these values must be upheld by individuals and cannot be mandated demonstrates their own understanding of and commitment to public service.”

– from the forward by Rex Buffington in the final report of the Stennis Fellows of the 109th Congress

Stennis Fellows include chiefs of staff, committee staff directors, legislative directors, legal counsels and other professional staff members in Congress. They are unified by a passion for congressional public service and a desire to work with the nation’s elected leaders to make the Congress function as effectively as possible on behalf of the American people.

The Stennis Fellows of the 109th Congress used retreats and roundtable discussions to explore the search for common ground in Congress. They interacted with leading experts, such as reporter Cokie Roberts and former Congressman Lee Hamilton. They also visited the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and met with Dr. Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web.

The program’s impact is captured by this excerpt from their final report titled *Congress and the People: Finding Common Ground*, which was released in November of 2006.

“The Stennis Fellowship provided an all too rare opportunity for us to step outside of our normal roles, share experiences, explore new ideas and learn from each other. It provided a neutral venue within which we were able to build, in microcosm, the kind of agreements and mutual understanding we hope will grow more widely both in Congress and across society. In the end, perhaps the best way to understand the power of working together to find common ground is to experience it. We hope that many others in Congress can have the sort of experience we have had during our period of Fellowship, and that this sort of [open] dialogue also can take place more regularly, not just in Congress, but in other parts of our society.”

**Jane Alonso**  
*Legislative Director*  
Office of U.S. Senator Susan Collins

**Michael Anderson**  
*Chief of Staff*  
Office of U.S. Representative Don Young

**Elise Kenderian Aronson**  
*Chief of Staff*  
Office of U.S. Representative Jim Saxton

**Jerome T. Clarke**  
*Chief of Staff*  
Office of U.S. Representative Timothy Johnson

**Mary Jane Collipriest**  
*Chief of Staff*  
Office of U.S. Senator Robert Bennett

**Sean P. Conway**  
*Chief of Staff*  
Office of U.S. Senator Wayne Allard

**Greg Dean**  
*General Counsel*  
Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

**Kellie Donnelly**  
*Counsel*  
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

**Fitzhugh Elder**  
*Minority Clerk*  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
Senate Committee on Appropriations

**Deborah Estes**  
*Senior Counsel*  
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

**Debra Gebhardt**  
*Chief of Staff*  
Office of U.S. Representative Tom Petri

**Joseph Goffman**  
*Legislative Director*  
Office of U.S. Senator Joseph Lieberman

**Julian Anthony Haywood**  
*Staff Director and Counsel*  
Subcommittee on Information, Policy, Census, and National Archives  
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

**Lloyd Horwich**  
*Policy Advisor*  
Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education  
House Committee on Education and Labor

**Aranthan Jones**  
*Director of Policy and Research*  
Office of the House Majority Whip

**Elizabeth MacDonough**  
*Sr. Assistant Parliamentarian*  
Office of the Senate Parliamentarian

**Adam Magary**  
*Chief of Staff*  
Office of U.S. Representative Don Manzullo

**Andrea Martin**  
*Legislative Director*  
Office of U.S. Representative Emanuel Cleaver

**Susan McAvooy**  
*Legislative Director, Communications Director*  
Office of U.S. Representative Leonard Boswell

**Michael McCord**  
*Professional Staff Member*  
Senate Committee on Armed Services

**Terri McCullough**  
*Chief of Staff*  
Office of U.S. Representative Nancy Pelosi

**Kriston McIntosh**  
*Deputy Director*  
U.S. Senate Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee

**Chad Metzler**  
*Legislative Director*  
Office of U.S. Senator Herb Kohl

**Michele Nellenbach**  
*Senior Professional Staff Member*  
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

**Julie Little Nickson**  
*Chief of Staff*  
Office of U.S. Representative Barbara Lee

**Beverly Pheto**  
*Clerk*  
Homeland Security Subcommittee  
House Committee on Appropriations

**Cheryl Janas Reidy**  
*Director for Revenues and Budget Review*  
Senate Committee on the Budget

**Mary Frances Repko**  
*Majority Senior Policy Advisor*  
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

**Steve Robinson**  
*Chief Social Security Analyst*  
Senate Committee on Finance

**Jo-Marie St. Martin**  
*General Counsel/Director of Legislative Operations*  
Office of House Minority Leader

**Karissa Willhite**  
*Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy*  
Office of U.S. Senator Bob Menendez

**Christopher J. Yianilos**  
*Legislative Director and Counsel*  
Office of U.S. Senator John Warner

# 110<sup>th</sup> Congress Stennis Congressional Staff Fellows

## Senior Fellows

Nearly 200 Stennis Fellows have completed their fellowship and are now known as Senior Fellows. Many Senior Fellows retain their commitment to the institution of Congress and have become involved in additional activities of the Stennis Center. For instance, Senior Fellows regularly participate in the Truman Scholars program, and they were instrumental in the establishment and ongoing work of both the Emerging Congressional Staff Leaders program, where they volunteer as mentors for junior staff, and the Congressional Summer Intern program.

# Emerging Congressional Staff Leaders Program



In an effort to fulfill its mandate to provide training opportunities for congressional staff, the Stennis Center created the Emerging Congressional Staff Leaders program in the 106th Congress. The Emerging Leaders program is a mentoring program whose purpose is to provide personal encouragement and guidance from veteran congressional staff to younger staff who have demonstrated significant leadership potential during the early stages of their careers on Capitol Hill.

The program, designed by a group of Senior Stennis Fellows, reflects their desire to reach out to help develop newer staff members who demonstrate a commitment to a career on Capitol Hill. Through a combination of one-on-one mentoring and group discussions, the program nurtures leadership skills and fosters a commitment to public service among congressional staff.

In the 109th Congress, 19 Emerging Leaders were paired with 19 Senior Stennis Fellows who served as mentors. An orientation session took place on

December 16, 2005, and the commencement occurred on December 1, 2006. In between, all mentors and Emerging Leaders met as a group six times to learn how to be more effective in their jobs. Together they discussed legislative procedures used on the House and Senator floors, intricacies of the congressional budget and appropriations processes, and how to help their Members achieve legislative goals. The mentors also provided advice on careers on Capitol Hill. Finally, the program connects the Emerging Leaders in a network not only to each other across party lines and chambers, but also to the Senior Stennis Fellows.



# Emerging Congressional Staff Leaders

20  
06

**Erica Antonson**, *Legislative Assistant*  
U.S. Representative Bart Gordon  
Mentor: Rochelle Dornatt (106th Congress)

**Nicole Austin**, *Legislative Assistant*  
U.S. Representative Judy Biggert  
Mentor: Jim Dykstra (103rd Congress)

**Wendy Fleming**, *Counsel*  
U.S. Senator David Vitter  
Mentor: Rick Valentine (104th Congress)

**Lauren Garry**, *Legislative Correspondent*  
U.S. Senator Olympia Snowe  
Mentor: Alison Taylor (108th Congress)

**Jamison Girard**, *Legislative Assistant*  
U.S. Representative Lynn Woolsey  
Mentor: Bob Dobek (107th Congress)

**Brian Heindl**, *Legislative Assistant*  
U.S. Senator Herb Kohl  
Mentor: Jo-Ellen Darcy (108th Congress)

**Michele Hennessey**, *Legislative Director*  
U.S. Representative Bill Shuster  
Mentor: Diane Liesman (106th Congress)

**Steve Higley**, *Correspondence Manager*  
U.S. Senate Committee on Environment  
and Public Works  
Mentor: Nils Johnson (106th Congress)

**Terence Houston**, *Legislative Correspondent*  
U.S. Representative Stephanie Tubbs Jones  
Mentor: Win Boerckel (108th Congress)

**Paige Jennings**, *Legislative Assistant*  
U.S. Senator Tom Carper  
Mentor: Joe Crapa (104th Congress)

**Michael Kuiken**, *Professional Staff Member*  
U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services  
Mentor: Paul Bock (106th Congress)

**Jennifer Kuzichev**, *Professional Staff Member*  
U.S. Senate Committee on Energy  
Mentor: Kate Sparks (107th Congress)

**David Montes**, *Professional Staff Member*  
U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs  
Mentor: Robert Simon (106th Congress)

**David Pappone**, *Professional Staff Member*  
U.S. Senate Committee on the Budget  
Mentor: Katherine McGuire (105th Congress)

**Scott Parman**, *Legislative Assistant*  
U.S. Representative Tom Cole  
Mentor: Mark Wellman (108th Congress)

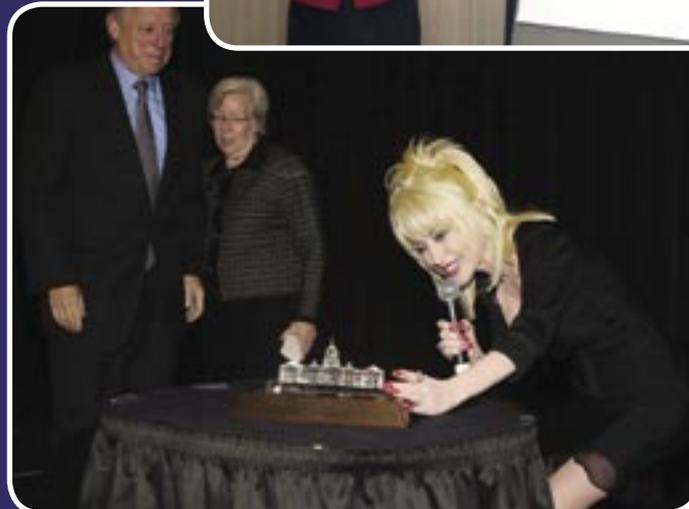
**Jordan Press**, *Senior Legislative Assistant*  
U.S. Representative Christopher Shays  
Mentor: Terri Ann Lowenthal (103rd Congress)

**Annie Russo**, *Legislative Assistant*  
U.S. Representative Steve Rothman  
Mentor: Chuck Atkins (105th Congress)

**Andrew Stevens**, *Senior Legislative Assistant*  
U.S. Representative Gwen Moore  
Mentor: Rick Healy (107th Congress)

**Kathleen White**, *Professional Staff*  
U.S. House Committee on Rules  
Mentor: Wendy Selig (106th Congress)

# Southern Women in Public Service Conference



The *Southern Women in Public Service: Coming Together to Make a Difference* conference began in 1991 as an effort to promote women in government leadership in the South. This conference is unique because it brings together women leaders from both political parties, all levels and branches of government, along with women leaders in business and academia. They are united behind the idea

that women are making a difference in the quality and character of government and that more women need to be involved as leaders in American politics.

The two most recent conferences were held in Tampa, Florida and Nashville, Tennessee. This event brings together hundreds of women political leaders from 14 Southern states, offers workshops to improve leadership skills and has developed a reputation for outstanding speakers such as Hillary Clinton, Elizabeth Dole, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Mary Landrieu, and Janet Reno to name only a few.

In the past two years, the Lindy Boggs Award – created to honor a woman from the South with outstanding public service credentials – has been presented to Dolly Parton, founder of the Imagination Library literacy program, and Carrie Meek. Meek was the first African American elected to Congress from Florida since Reconstruction, and she served from 1993 to 2003.



Continuing its bipartisan spirit, recent conference programs have featured U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao and three Members of Congress – Marsha Blackburn (R-TN), Kathy Castor (D-FL) and Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL). First Lady Laura Bush delivered a message via video. Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink of Florida and West Virginia Secretary of State Betty

Ireland, the only female statewide elected officials in their respective states, also addressed the conference. In addition, Karenna Gore Schiff, daughter of Al Gore, spoke about her book, *Lighting the Way: Nine Women Who Changed Modern America*.

For the first time ever, the conference hosted the highest ranking female in the United States Navy, Vice Admiral Ann Rondeau, and the highest ranking enlisted woman in the U.S. Navy, Command Master Chief Jacqueline DiRosa. Working as a team, the two briefed the attendees on the integral role that women play in America's modern military.

West Virginia Secretary of State Betty Ireland, who attended for the first time in 2007, said, "I truly enjoyed meeting so many outstanding women in public service. The important work you are doing to encourage more women to participate in public service is gratifying to me. I feel renewed by time spent with all the impressive women at the conference."



# Lindy Boggs Award Recipients



Carrie Meek  
U. S. Representative (FL)  
2007

In 1995 the Stennis Center established the Lindy Boggs Award to honor an outstanding female political leader from the South. Corinne “Lindy” Claiborne Boggs served as U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See (Vatican) from 1997 to 2001. She was the first woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Louisiana and in 1976, the first woman to chair a national political convention, presiding over the nomination of President Jimmy Carter.

At 24, Boggs came to Washington, D.C. from Louisiana with her newly elected husband, Congressman Hale Boggs. She emerged as an influential force in American politics – running her husband’s congressional campaigns, managing his Capitol Hill office, and chairing numerous organizations such as John F. Kennedy’s and Lyndon Johnson’s inaugural ball committees. In 1972 Congressman Boggs disappeared in a small plane over Alaska. His successor was his wife, who served in Congress for nine terms, from 1973 to 1990. She was known as a champion for women’s issues and a role model for women in politics.

In 1994, she published her autobiography, *Washington Through a Purple Veil: Memoirs of a Southern Woman*.



Dolly Parton  
Founder, Imagination Library



Lady Bird Johnson  
First Lady



Condoleezza Rice  
U.S. Secretary of State



Janet Reno  
U.S. Attorney General



Kay Bailey Hutchison  
U.S. Senator (TX)



Rosalynn Carter  
First Lady



Martha Layne Collins  
Governor (KY)



Myrlie Evers-Williams  
Chair Emeritus, NAACP



Evelyn Gandy  
Lt. Governor (MS)



Elizabeth Dole  
U.S. Senator (NC)



Ann Richards  
Governor (TX)

## Aircraft Carrier Leadership Awards

To recognize and honor some of the men and women who demonstrate outstanding public service leadership on American aircraft carriers, the Stennis Center created a special leadership awards program for four ships: USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN 74), USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65), USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70) and most recently the USS NIMITZ (CVN 68). The awards recognize distinguished officers and senior-enlisted personnel who have demonstrated exceptional leadership on board their respective aircraft carriers. The award winners and their families travel to Washington, D.C. where they meet with Members of Congress and congressional staff and other civilian leaders.

In addition to providing well deserved recognition to the military members who receive the awards, this program provides many leaders in Washington with an opportunity to better understand the quality and character of the men and women serving in America’s military. By including spouses in the program, Members of Congress and staff who meet with them also get a glimpse into the family commitment required of those who serve in uniform.

The Stennis Center has also made a concerted effort to merge program interests where possible to take advantage of natural synergies. For example, women military leaders are included in the Southern Women in Public Service Leadership program both as speakers and participants. The 109th Congress Stennis Congressional Staff Fellows also made a visit to the USS JOHN C. STENNIS at-sea, providing an opportunity for the Fellows to pursue their learning agenda while also connecting with the military.



USS ENTERPRISE award winners visit Washington, D.C.

### USS STENNIS 2006 Award Winners

CDR Pete Hall  
Look Ahead Award

PSCS (SW/AW) Roy Mobley  
Straight Furrow Award

### USS ENTERPRISE 2006 Award Winners

CWO3 John L. Gilbert  
Stephen Decatur Leadership Award

PS1 Albert L. Campbell  
Billy Hawk Leading Petty Officer Award

IS2 Ashley M. Haley  
Boatswain’s Mate Second Class George H. Smith Award (Sailor of the Year)

ABFCS Johnnie Johnson  
Chief G.F. Lawhon Leadership Award

CDR James R. Shoaf  
Admiral James L. Holloway III  
Leadership Award

ABHAN Jeffrey B. Tennon  
Lieutenant Richard H. Best Award  
(Junior Sailor of the Year)

# Civil Military Leadership Program

Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Mike Mullen, (center) meets with Stennis Center's Frank Sullivan (left), and freshmen U.S. Senators Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Bob Casey (D-PA), Jon and Sharla Tester (D-MT), Bob Corker (R-TN) and veteran U.S. Senator Jack Reed (D-RI).



USS ENTERPRISE award winners with U.S. Representative Marsha Blackburn.



Opposite page: U.S. Representative Ray LaHood (R-IL) with Captain Patrick Hall of the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN

As fewer Members of Congress come to office with military experience, it is important to help those who have a constitutional responsibility to “provide for the common defense” to connect with those serving in the military to build relationships and understanding that will lead to better informed policy decisions.

The Stennis Center has provided various opportunities to connect Members of Congress with military leaders, such as a dinner to bring Admiral Timothy Keating, Commander of the United States Northern Command, and Commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command, together with five Members of Congress: Tom Cole (R-OK), Mike Conaway (R-TX), Joe Schwarz (R-MI), John Shimkus (R-IL), and Bill Shuster (R-PA).

The Stennis Center has also included Members of Congress in conversations with Prospective Commanding Officers of nuclear powered aircraft carriers and with military members and their spouses through the leadership awards programs the Stennis Center sponsors on aircraft carriers. Members are also invited to participate in trips that bring them into contact with the military at work on bases and ships.

Congressional staff members have also been included in Civil-Military programs including meetings with military representatives and trips. The response from those participating has been very good, providing a foundation upon which we continue to build.

2007

**Captain Patrick Hall**  
USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN-72)

**Captain Ronald Horton**  
USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65)

**Captain Michael C. Manazir**  
USS NIMITZ (CVN-68)

2006

**Captain Kevin O’Flaherty**  
USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN-77)

**Captain Herman Shelanski**  
USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN-75)

**Captain Walter Carter, Jr.**  
USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70)

**Captain Brad Johanson**  
USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN-74)

2005

**Captain Dan Cloyd**  
USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN-69)

**Captain Terry Kraft**  
USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN-76)

**Captain J.R. Haley**  
USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71)

2004

**Captain Andy McCawley**  
USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN-72)

**Captain James Gigliotti**  
USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN-75)

**Captain Garry White**  
USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN-73)

**Captain Kevin Donegan**  
USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70)

**Captain Ted Branch**  
USS NIMITZ (CVN-68)

**Captain Larry Rice**  
USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65)

2003

**Captain Dave Buss**  
USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN-74)

**Captain Johnny Green**  
USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71)

**Captain James Symonds**  
USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN-76)

2002

**Captain Kendall L. Card**  
USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN-72)

**Captain Martin J. Erdosy**  
USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN-73)

**Captain Robert J. Gilman**  
USS NIMITZ (CVN-68)

**Captain Michael R. Grootousen**  
USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN-75)

2001

**Captain James McDonell**  
USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN-74)

**Captain Rick Wren**  
USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70)

**Captain Rick Neidlinger**  
USS ENTERPRISE (CVN-65)

# Connecting Carriers and Congress

Another component of the Stennis Center’s initiative to improve civil-military relations is a program to help those who command our nation’s aircraft carriers gain insight into the civilian leadership on Capitol Hill.



Prior to taking command, each prospective commanding officer (PCO) of the Navy’s nuclear powered aircraft carriers attends a luncheon or dinner

on Capitol Hill where they interact with members of Congress and senior-level congressional staff who work on national security issues. The goal is to develop mutual understanding between the civilian leaders in Congress and commanding officers of America’s aircraft carriers.

Since 2006, the Stennis Center hosted the prospective commanding officers from seven ships: USS JOHN C. STENNIS, USS CARL VINSON, USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH, USS HARRY S. TRUMAN, USS NIMITZ, USS ENTERPRISE and USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

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